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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Bonn INFORMATIONSTECHNIK in German 1984 pp 1-80

[Introduction, table of contents, summary and text of report issued by Minister of Research and Technology of Federal Republic of Germany]

[Text] Introduction

The production, processing and distribution of information in modern industrial society is increasingly taking on the role of an independent factor of production next to capital and labor. Precisely because the FRG is a nation with a strong export orientation the capability to develop and apply with an eye to the market modern information and communication technologies and microelectronics which provides the basis for them has a very important bearing on our competitive position.

For this reason, the FRG must try to attain a leadership position in information technology.

This is a possibility provided that the men and women of the FRG take up the challenge of this technology—in terms of training and continuing education as well as in the media and in public life; that industry aggressively seeks out markets and engages in international competition and that the state removes existing obstacles and creates the kind of conditions that will make its assistance programs most effective.

In his 4 May 1983 government statement, Chancellor Dr Helmut Kohl announced a comprehensive government concept to assist development in microelectronics and the information and communication technologies. This concept is not limited to assistance to the technological sector alone but was worked out under the leadership of the ministry for research and technology with the help of other ministries and includes their contributions.

This overall concept was adopted by the cabinet on 14 March 1984. The programs outlined are a reflection of the government's resolve to meet the challenge of information technology and to help improve the FRG's competitive position in this field. In this endeavor, it pins its hopes on the dynamism and innovative capacity of German industry and places its faith in the readiness of those who are a part of our market economy to learn and to work hard and in the willingness of all participants to work as partners.

/s/ Dr Heinz Riesenhuber, Minister for Research and Technology

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